

Cultural Heritage Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The land and waters under the vested management of Pilbara Ports contain a variety of significant cultural heritage sites. These include but are not limited to:

- places of significance to the cultural and spiritual beliefs of Aboriginal people;
- archaeological sites including rock art, stone arrangements, middens and artefact scatters;
- maritime archaeological sites including shipwrecks and the remains of early infrastructure such as jetties; and
- artefacts and the remains of structures associated with the early exploration, settlement and commerce within the Pilbara region by non-Indigenous people.

These places and objects are significant to members of the community and to the history of Western Australia. Many of the cultural heritage site that exist within Pilbara Ports land and waters are protected by legislation.

The Cultural Heritage Strategy identifies the key systems and processes utilised by Pilbara Ports to ensure the cultural heritage that exist within Pilbara Ports lands and waters is appropriately managed.

OBJECTIVES

Pilbara Ports objective is to achieve the sustainable and respectful management of the cultural heritage that exists within its land and waters. Pilbara Ports will continue to achieve this objective by:

- maintaining and improving a detailed knowledge of the cultural heritage that exists within Pilbara Ports land and waters;
- identifying cultural heritage early on in the development process so that cultural heritage can be considered, avoided and protected;
- where impact to cultural heritage cannot be avoided, develop and submit applications under relevant legislation and in consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- developing, implementing and continually reviewing procedures for appropriately managing cultural heritage using the guiding principles of avoid, protect and mitigate;
- ensuring compliance will heritage legislation and associated statutory approvals; and
- Educating Pilbara Ports employees of the cultural heritage that exists within Pilbara Ports land and waters and appropriate actions when interacting with these places and objects.

APPROACH

The guiding systems and processes to achieve these objectives are:

HERITAGE GUIDING STRATEGIES

Heritage database	Compile and maintain cultural heritage records, including but not limited to, heritage survey reports, site recordings/files and regulatory approval applications and consents, and linking these documents to Pilbara Ports Web Mapping System (Port Maps) to provide a detailed database to inform management, planning and development processes. This is to remain an ongoing process.
Cultural Heritage Management Plan	Pilbara Ports Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) identifies systems and processes that enable Pilbara Ports to operate in areas rich in diverse cultural heritage whilst seeking to avoid or preserve those places and objects, or mitigate cultural heritage impacts where this is not possible. The processes and procedures detailed in the CHMP are implemented in consultation with stakeholders and will ensure compliance with legislation. The CHMP is subject to biennial review, in consultation with our stakeholders, to ensure the optimal performance of the processes and strategies outlined in the CHMP. Additional reviews of systems and processes can be undertaken at the request of stakeholders.
Compliance	Where Pilbara Ports developments and operations will impact upon cultural heritage, appropriate statutory approvals will be sought under relevant legislation. Statutory approvals may have conditions of consent, such as reporting requirements and monitoring, which must be complied with.
Site specific cultural heritage management	Individual sites that contain significant cultural heritage places or objects may require a specific cultural heritage management plan or management actions to be developed to ensure the values within those sites are adequately protected and preserved from nearby activities/operations or to redress/mitigate previous impacts. Such plans or management actions are developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
Cultural heritage awareness training	Raising the cultural heritage awareness of Pilbara Ports Employees remains a high priority. Incorporating cultural heritage information into inductions ensures that new employees are aware of their cultural heritage obligations and Pilbara Ports procedures. Information sessions for existing staff provides detailed information on the cultural heritage in their area of operations, cultural heritage management projects in the area and the processes and procedures detailed within Pilbara Ports CHMP.
First Nations engagement	Continued engagement with the First Nations community through consultation, seeking input into Pilbara Ports CHMP and associated cultural heritage procedures, and training opportunities will ensure Pilbara Ports is aware of and responsive to the heritage concerns of the First Nations community.



OUTCOMES

The desired heritage outcomes to be achieved by implementing this strategy are:

- maintaining an appropriate cultural heritage database for Pilbara Ports land and waters;
- early identification and detailed understanding of any cultural heritage places or objects within proposed development areas so that these may be appropriately considered;
- obtaining all required legislative approvals on a timely basis for all future developments which cannot avoid impact to cultural heritage;
- guide appropriate management works undertaken on cultural heritage identified as requiring protection;
- increasing awareness by Pilbara Ports employees of the diverse cultural heritage within Pilbara Ports land and waters, the importance of these places and objects and the systems and processes in place to protect them; and
- greater understanding of cultural heritage values and concerns through engagement with the Traditional Owners and local community.

Contact us

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